CHRISTMAS CHIMES!

How they add to the Christmas spirit! "Silent Night, Holy Night"—"Adeste Fideles" —pealing out on crisp air that is richly laden with the memories of other Christmas seasons —of that One memorable Christmas-tide centuries ago. Each Christmas sees an ever increasing number of churches enjoying the benefits that come through the installation of Golden Voiced Tower Chimes.

A CHURCH AND COMMUNITY NEED

Not only at Christmas time but at every other season of the year these Modern Tower Chimes confer incalculable benefits through reaching the strays and non-attendants—those whom the Church most of all wants to reach but who shun every ordinary invitation. When Chimes are installed there is invariably a noticeable spiritual awakening in the community—new faces are seen in the congregation; regular communicants display added zeal.

THE CARPENTER MIND OF JESUS.

Mk.6:3 Is not this the carpenter, the son of Mary, and brother of James and Joses and Judas and Simon? And are not his sisters here with us?

INTRO. The disciples forbidding the children-in the way
The meager acct of the home life of Jesus.

I. The Home Life of Jesus

1. The Workman's cottage
A single room cottage or hut.
A candle could light it
A house wherein the loss of a six-pence was a serious matter. And when Mary found it-
The furnishings-
The play-ground for the children- the hi (hills

2. The Town of Nazareth-secluded in the hills, but a climb to the rim revealed
Northward- Esdraelon
The battlefields of many victories and defeats-Barak and Gideon, Saul and Josiah. The Maccabees.
Carmel- Elijah and his sacrifice

Eastward-Jordan and Gilead Range
Westward-The Great Sea with its ships of Tarshish.
The map of O.T. history spread before them

3. The Main Roads close by.
Caravans of traders and travelers
Roman soldiers, Herod's troops
Deputation to Rome to plead before Caesar
Party of criminals, on way to trial and crucifixion
Priests and Levites and Publicans
The Boy Jesus must have seen all these and gone to his father and mother with thousands of questions regarding them. Told the story of Roman rule and of the hope of redemption for Israel
The different attitudes towars the situation
The Zealots- their use of force
Others looked for a miraculous intervention that would destroy Rome and reinstate Israel

A few, a very few, called,"the poor", or, "the quiet in the land", looked for the spiritual redemption of Israel and believed that God had a nobler destiny for Israel what the violent politicians or exclusive religious leaders could offer.

Joseph and Mary likely of this latter group

II.Jesus Religion In His Home Life.

1. Reason to think that father died when Jesus was a boy or a young man. Mk.3:31-35

2. Being the main supporter of the family-oldest boy-Jesus would naturally take charge of the business
And there was Mary to comfort
And all the little worries and troubles and anxieties of his brothers and sisters
How could he find peace in such a house? What time would he have for himself? Far too busy to be religious?!
On contrary, religion is for life and only in lif that one can be religious. We err greatly if we think that the religion of Jesus came to him after he left the shop. The religion that Jesus taught and lived was his home religion.
God found in temples and rites and ceremonies?
A saying of Jesus that has come down to us:
"Cleave the wood and thou shalt find me;
Lift the stone and I am there"
In the home and in the shop it was where Jesus discovered that long prayers, religious ri rites and ceremonies were not religion.
The Sermon on the Mount not the fancy of an idle dreamer, but the concl usions from his own religion, and in his home of straightened circumstances at Nazareth
There he learned that the poor in spirit, more anxious to share with others than to grasp for themselves, were the happy people
There he found those mourn until quarrels are put to right and misunderstandings cleared up.

There he found those who hunger and thirst after right relationship with all the family, and who being pure and single-minded are able to reconcile differences and stand ready to suffer anything rather than let wrong-doing pass unchallenged.

As a layman and carpenter, builder and provider, in his humble home did Jesus learn life's very secret.

Holman Hunt's picture of the Carpenter Shop at Nazareth- the shadow of the cross is clearly seen

From incident of Jesus inthe Temple-"Wist ye not that I must be about my Father's business?

To Jesus God is always Father, rather than King or Lordof Hosts, or a distant Providence

Jesus apprenticed to his father

Did not his fingers slip at times? Is it not written of his carpenter daysas well as of his later days that he "learned by the things he suffered"?

In that home of his, when everything went wrong, Mary tired outand discouraged, children noisyand bothersome, customers critical and exacting, weather unfavorable, Jesus found that peace which the world can neither give nortake away-for the meaning of life lies in the acceptance of the of the duties God demands and cheerful submission to the necessary discipline. Thru our Father's gracious relation to us in all things, there is nothing we may not face and turn to profit.

All ordinary petty irretations and worries were to Jesus but opportunities of responding to the call of his Father for the building of character and making himself of service to others.

III. The Carpenter-shop religion of Jesus was not a system of dogmas nor a mysterious experience- but the RIGHT ATTITUDE TO LIFE.

Love is the fulfillment of all law, a right attitude to God and to man.

What distingusihes the religious man from the irreligious man?

Not a difference in experiences- both may be the same

The difference found in the way they react towards their experiences, by the way they

 they take them.

Illustration from Dr.Oman's Grace and Personality"
Four boys on deck of a ship at nite
Another ship passes in the dark, flashing signals, all that can be seen are the flashes of light
One boy, being artistic, says,"How Pretty!"
Another boy, being nervous is irretated by it
A third is frightened- it is black magic
The fourth disciphers the code and gets directins for going ahead, shoals to be avoided or the way clear

To some life is just beautiful- full of pleasurable experiences. But such people are shutting their eyes to to a large part of reality and are not facing the facts of life' and when stern reality bearns down upon them, as in case of sickness or failure or death, their pretty little world collapses- life is'nt the merry-go-round they thot it was.

To others life is just a series of irretations, every- seems to vex them, nothing works well for them.
To others still, life is a great mystery, they cannot make heads or tails of it all, they are stumped.
To the religious man, of experience offers much that is beautiful, much that is thwarting and disappointing, much that is mysterious and dark, and yet thru it all he reads the meaning of it, for the experiences of life to him are as a Morse code, messages from our Heavenly Father, telling us which way to go and which way to avoid, and he disiphers the message from the Father which reads, BIt is I, be not afraid".

The tired man who finds a soft cushion on his chair
The significance of the wedding ring
Our daily bread
Many take it as a matter of course
But when we realize that it is a gift from a Father, standing for endless love and care, then our daily bread becomes a sacrament, as sacramental as the bread and wine of holy communion.

Jesus learned in the home and in the shop that all the wisdom and strength of his fatherwas being used in ways of love and self-sacrificingservice on behalf of his children. So our Heavenly Father loves His children of

of earth.

Conclusion.

In the home and in the shop, what is your attitude towards life? How do you face your experiences? Can you discipher them as God s messages?

What kind of a religious experience are you giving to your children?